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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 30 March 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We write today to reiterate our strong condemnation of the campaign of murder and aggression of Israel, the occupying Power, in particular its continued practice of extrajudicial killings against Palestinian civilians, particularly youth, held captive under its brutal occupation in the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. While Israel's illegal policy of extrajudicial killings, most carried out execution-style, have been incessant throughout its nearly five-decade-long occupation, this illegal practice has been on the rise since October 2015, when the occupying Power stepped up its aggression against the Palestinian people. Such unlawful attacks, which amount to war crimes and indicate an abject disdain for the worth of Palestinian lives, have further ignited an already extremely tense situation on the ground.

In this connection, we wish to add to the record of Israeli war crimes the gruesome killing of two young Palestinians, Ramzi Qasrawi and Abdul Fattah al-Sharif, both age 21, who were killed in the Tal Rumeida neighbourhood in Al-Khalil by Israeli occupying forces on the morning of 24 March 2016. A video captured by a field worker from the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem shows two bodies lying on the ground after being shot. The video shows the body of Abdul Fattah lying on the ground after being shot as occupying forces and medical teams walk around his body, providing no medical assistance, while Palestinian ambulances were blocked from reaching the area. Minutes later, the video shows a well-known terrorist settler asking an Israeli soldier, who is also a so-called medic, if "the dog is dead" and, if he is not dead, to "shoot him in the head". The Israeli soldier obliges and shoots him in the head at point-blank range.

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The video clearly shows that Abdul Fattah was disarmed and not posing a threat to anyone, proving that the occupying Power has carried out yet another extrajudicial execution. Abhorrently, a third video shows the Israeli soldier who shot Abdul Fattah in the head shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries with another well-known extreme illegal settler from Al-Khalil as if nothing happened. This only further displays the level of moral corruption that exists throughout the ranks of the Israeli occupying forces as well as the entrenched and utter disdain for Palestinian life.

We recall the recent remarks by the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International, who stated in a recent press release that "the shooting of a wounded and incapacitated person, even if they have been involved in an attack, has absolutely no justification and must be prosecuted as a potential war crime". He went on to state, "Israeli forces have a long history of carrying out unlawful killings — including extrajudicial executions — in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with impunity." It is in this connection and following the recently released video footage providing evidence of Israeli war crimes that the Palestinian leadership has formally requested that the United Nations initiate an official investigation into Israeli extrajudicial killings of Palestinian civilians. The request calls for the investigation not only of the execution of Abdul Fattah but of all other extrajudicial killings carried out by the Israeli occupying forces since the beginning of this most recent aggression since October 2015.

At the same time, we must highlight that after the heinous act of the extrajudicial execution of Abdul Fattah, Israeli government officials have been vulgarly vying with each other as to who is more in support of the Israeli soldier that committed this latest war crime, with some officials even calling him a hero in a clear example of official encouragement and effective impunity. Such clear examples of incitement are exactly what allow Israeli occupying forces and illegal settlers alike to commit crimes against Palestinians, including women and children, without fear of punishment. This has undoubtedly fostered a culture of impunity that prevails throughout the ranks of occupying forces and the settler population.

Moreover, evidence of how incitement by government officials itself leads to inflaming hate and racism among the Israeli public is reflected in the fact that shortly after the video of the extrajudicial execution surfaced on the Internet, polls conducted showed that more than half of Israelis support the Israeli soldier that carried out the execution. Furthermore, the Israeli soldier that carried this murder out has attracted widespread support on Israeli social media, with thousands of Israelis joining Facebook support groups and another 50,000 signing a petition backing his actions.

Having stated the above, we recognize the condemnation made by many in the international community of Israel's latest extrajudicial killing in grave violation of international law, including international humanitarian law. However, the international community must go further and compel an end to this cruel and illegal practice by the occupying Power. It is tragic, yet true, that if video footage had not been taken of this latest Israeli crime, it would have been ignored, just as the hundreds of other killings of Palestinians by the occupying Power have gone ignored and unpunished and with most of these killings attributed to so-called "thwarting attackers". The facts on the ground are shockingly clear and must not be distorted — the Palestinian civilian population is a defenceless population facing

the constant aggression of the occupying Power in the most violent and innumerable ways and they are in need of, and entitled to, protection in accordance with international humanitarian law, namely the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The Palestinian leadership thus again appeals to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold its obligations in this regard and to undertake measures for the protection of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. These are not random incidents of human rights violations and war crimes by the Israeli occupying forces, but rather part of a systematic, intentional pattern of behaviour targeting and demeaning Palestinian lives. Justice must be served and the Palestinian people must be protected in order to avert more death, destruction and suffering being inflicted by Israel, the occupying Power, as it continues to trample and gravely breach international law. The international community cannot continue to rationalize, excuse or cover up Israel's crimes. The Security Council, which is tasked with the duty to maintain international peace and security and has taken upon itself commitments for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, must act forthwith to end Israeli impunity and be on the right side of history.

Before concluding, I must also draw attention to some of the other crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period since our last letter to you:

23 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained overnight eight Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished and removed Palestinian-owned residential structures in Khirbet Tana, a small village to the east of Nablus.
- Occupying forces closed the main entrances leading to the southern West Bank city of Al-Khalil and several neighbouring towns.
- Israeli settlers resumed provocative tours into Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Occupied East Jerusalem, inflaming tensions with Palestinian worshipers.

24 March 2016

- At least 23 Palestinians, including a young girl, were detained by Israeli occupying forces, mostly during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces shot dead Ramzi Qasrawi (age 21) and extrajudicially executed Abdul Fattah al-Sharif (age 21) in Tal Rumeida neighbourhood in the centre of Al-Khalil.

25 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces shot an elderly Palestinian man, Taysir Shtewei (age 68), in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet and injured dozens of other civilians, including many who suffered excessive tear-gas inhalation, in the towns of Bilin and Kafr Qaddum.

26 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained a Palestinian and summoned five others for interrogation from the West Bank districts of Tubas and Bethlehem.
- Occupying forces shot and injured four Palestinians near the border in the Gaza Strip.
- Occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian farmers and shepherds in the Gaza Strip, forcing them to leave their fields.

27 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 12 Palestinians from across the West Bank, including from Bethlehem, Tulkarem and Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces shot at Palestinian farmers and shepherds to the east of Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

28 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians, including two children, during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Persisting with illegal colonization measures, occupying forces demolished and destroyed a home, a farm, electric wires, a water network and trees and razed a tract of land at the northern entrance to Bethlehem.
- Occupying forces stormed the family homes of Ahmed Zakarneh, Mohammed Kamil and Najeh Abu al-Rub during a predawn raid in the town of Qabatiya, near Jenin, in order to demolish their homes in an act of collective punishment.
- Occupying forces issued and renewed administrative detention orders against 27 Palestinian detainees, keeping them captive in prison without a charge or trial. Ten of the detainees received administrative detention orders for the first time, whereas the remaining 17 received renewed administrative orders.

29 March 2016

- Israeli naval boats fired at Palestinian fishermen sailing offshore from Gaza, while occupying forces opened fire at farmers when they attempted to reach their lands.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 21 Palestinians, including a journalist, and assaulted another during several West Bank raids.
- Occupying forces demolished a children's playground, a wall and a stable and uprooted around 30 fruit trees in the East Jerusalem town of Silwan.

It is a regrettable fact that all such crimes by Israel, the occupying Power, and its occupying forces, whether its military forces or its settlers, will continue to be perpetrated against the Palestinian people if the international community continues to fail to hold Israel to account and to the same rules and norms of international law and human rights standards as the rest of the world. Israel is an occupying Power, and there are clear provisions of law and even clearer prohibitions that are being grossly, systematically and gravely violated by the occupying Power and its

occupying forces as a matter of policy and practice. Israel cannot continue to be exempt from the law, destroying innocent Palestinian lives, destroying the Palestinian land and fabric of our society and destroying the two-State solution and the prospects for peace. The international community must end its "management of this conflict" and seriously undertake measures to finally compel Israel to end its half-century occupation along with all of its other crimes against the Palestinian people and finally allow the Palestinian people to realize the freedom, rights and justice they have for too long been tragically denied.

This letter is in follow-up to our 580 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 22 March 2016 (A/ES-10/716-S/2016/270), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/718–S/2016/331

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Security Council

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 29 March 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I transmit to you herewith the press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine regarding the execution by occupying forces of the Palestinian youth Abdulfattah al-Sharif (21 years old) in Hebron on 24 March 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad H. **Mansour**
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 29 March 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Execution of Al-Sharif is a fresh war crime that refutes the claims of Israel regarding the ethics of its army

The video clips of an occupying soldier executing the youth Abdulfattah al-Sharif (21 years old) in Hebron refute all the slogans trumpeted by occupation commanders about the ethics of the Israeli Army. Those clips conclusively prove the reality of what the Palestinian people endure at the hands of the Israeli killing machine, which has carried out dozens of extrajudicial executions of Palestinians. The video clips also confirm the truth of the Palestinian account of things, which has consistently held the Israeli Government and its various agencies directly responsible for such executions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns in the strongest terms this heinous crime and all official Israeli statements and positions in defence of the "ethical" conduct of the Israeli Army and its agencies. Those statements and positions reflect the violent extremism of the members of the governing coalition in Israel and how they strive to provoke violence against the Palestinian people. The Ministry also condemns the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who led a cohort of right-wing extremists in defence of those who torture and murder, and the ongoing oppression of Palestinians by his forces. In his statements, he rejected the criticisms directed against the occupying army, which he characterized as being "ethical", and called for support for the occupying soldiers. The Ministry furthermore condemns the racist and extremist statements of the Israeli Minister of Education, Naftali Bennett, who said that the soldier was not a murderer and should not be prejudged.

The Ministry stresses that the execution of the youth Abdulfattah al-Sharif is a heinous crime that has become commonplace since Netanyahu's Government decided to allow occupying soldiers to fire at Palestinians of whom they were merely suspicious, and to provide every form of protection, whether judicial, financial or moral, to soldiers and settlers who commit murder. That policy demonstrates how deeply rooted the ideology of violent extremism has become in Israeli society and official political, judicial and military institutions. This ideology now underpins an integrated system of incitement inside Israel that sanctions the murder of Palestinians and is fuelled by the religious rulings of extremist rabbis, at the forefront of whom is Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef who issued a religious ruling that calls for any Palestinian carrying a knife to be killed.

The calls of the occupiers for the creation of a committee to hear the statements of the murdering soldier are a blatant attempt to mitigate the repercussions and deflect international criticism of this savage crime. This committee will arrive at the same conclusion reached by many of the previous sham investigative committees that the occupiers have formed after the revelation of any crime they commit against Palestinians, with a view to avoiding international accountability and punishment for their crimes. The Ministry calls on the

international community and international rights, legal and humanitarian organizations and councils, particularly the International Criminal Court, to conduct a comprehensive international legal review of all extrajudicial executions, in order to determine the truth and circumstances of those crimes and bring the perpetrators and their commanders before the competent international courts.

The Ministry calls on Palestinian and Arab human rights organizations to give more attention to and highlight these ongoing crimes, and to forcefully draw attention to them in international human rights forums. For its part, the Ministry will bring this case to the attention of the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Council and the competent international agencies.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 8 April 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have written on an almost weekly basis to draw international attention to the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine. In each letter, we have underscored our grave concerns about the breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights law being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, which are inflicting widespread human suffering and deliberately destabilizing and inflaming the situation on the ground.

In each letter we have called on the international community, especially the Security Council, to uphold the obligations to respect and ensure respect for international law and to determine the necessary measures to compel Israel to end its war crimes and human rights violations against the Palestinian people, in order to alleviate the suffering, stem the deterioration of the situation and salvage the prospects for peace. Regrettably, the Security Council has not upheld its obligations despite the clear consensus of positions among the international community, both on the illegality of Israel's policies and practices against the Palestinian people and on the urgency of bringing an end to this decades-long conflict so that the Palestinian people can finally realize the freedom, rights and justice they have for too long been tragically denied.

As a result of this inaction, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued and even intensified its destructive policies and practices against the defenceless Palestinian population, including, inter alia, the use of excessive force against Palestinian civilians, including children and women, causing death and injury. We must highlight the deepening vulnerability of Palestinian children, as they continue to bear the brunt of the increasingly oppressive, violent and illegal Israeli policies and practices. Just this week alone, two Palestinian children, aged 12 and 13, were shot in the head with rubber-coated steel bullets by Israeli occupying forces, while another Palestinian child, No'man Basal, age 14, sustained fractures and injuries

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after an Israeli occupying jeep ran him over in an area of Yatta town near Al-Khalil. They all remain in critical condition.

Moreover, Israel has been unrelenting in its illegal colonization practices, with settlement and wall construction continuing unabated. An Israeli think tank has recently reported that additional budget transfers by the Israeli government to settlers living in illegal settlements grew 28.4 per cent in 2015 over 2014, a figure of $369.1 million dollars, clearly demonstrating the government's direct and deliberate investment, as well as obsession, with its settlement colonial project. And as the occupying Power builds and expands more illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitute not only grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention but war crimes as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, it also continues with its illegal, repressive and punitive measures of home demolitions, leaving countless of Palestinian families homeless and hopeless. The destructive impact of such Israeli violations is immense, as reflected in rising tensions, deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and deepening anger and frustration among the Palestinian civilian population living under these nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation.

In this connection, in just one day alone, on 4 April 2016, seven Palestinian homes were demolished in Occupied East Jerusalem, Surif, Qabatia and Duma by Israeli occupying forces, leaving nearly 30 Palestinians homeless, including six children. Needless to say, according to international humanitarian law, this systematic and institutionalized practice of home demolition by the occupying Power in occupied territory is tantamount to collective punishment — a war crime.

Even after widespread condemnation of the demolitions on 4 April, the occupying Power carried out yet more home demolitions. On 6 April 2016, the occupying Power demolished six dwellings of Bedouin refugee families, leaving 34 people, including 19 children, homeless, from the community of Um Al-Khayr in the southern hills of Al-Khalil, located near the illegal so-called settlement of "Karmel". It has been documented that the Um Al-Khayr community has faced constant threats of displacement since the "Karmel" settlement was illegally established in 1981 and expanded onto villagers' land. In this regard, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports that, in 2016 alone, over 700 Palestinians have been displaced by Israeli demolitions in the West Bank. The Director of UNRWA Operations in the West Bank, Lance Bartholomeusz, said that just a little over three months into 2016, the figure is approaching the total number of displaced for all of 2015.

As the international community continues to witness these destructive home demolitions one must question: how is it that the Palestinian population, who are supposed to be protected under the Geneva Conventions, can maintain confidence in international law as they witness their homes being demolished, their land being stolen and the fabric of their communities being ripped apart by the occupying Power that is obligated to protect that civilian population under its occupation in accordance with the law? Instead, the occupying Power is the cause of their insecurity, suffering and dispossession, as it continues its destructive actions and continues to actually build Israeli settlements on the very same occupied lands where it is demolishing the homes of the Palestinian civilian population and all of this is being done without punishment or any accountability for such illegal actions? With this reprehensible trend on the rise and with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reporting that some

90,000 Palestinians face potential displacement as a result of home demolitions, we urge the international community, in particular the Security Council, to demand an immediate end to this illegal Israeli practice. Without accountability, it is clear that such illegal behaviour will continue, with far-reaching consequences for the viability of the two-State solution and the objective of peace.

Before concluding, I must also draw attention to some of the other crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period since our last letter to you:

30 March 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 18 Palestinians, including five children, from Nablus, Bethlehem, Jenin, Al-Khalil and Jerusalem.
- Israeli naval boats attacked Palestinian fishermen's boats offshore of the northern Gaza Strip.
- Overnight, occupying forces stormed the family house of a Palestinian human rights worker for B'Tselem who had captured video footage of an Israeli soldier extrajudicially executing Abdul Fattah Al-Sharif, age 21, in Al-Khalil neighbourhood of Tal Rumeida.
- A Palestinian child, No'man Basal (age 14) sustained fractures and injuries after an Israeli occupying jeep ran him over in an area of Yatta town near Al-Khalil.

31 March 2016

- Occupying forces detained 13 Palestinians in predawn raids in Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus.
- Israeli occupying forces destroyed the interior walls of the family house of Ehab Miswada, who was shot dead by occupying forces about five months ago.

1 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians in predawn raids across the West Bank.

2 April 2016

- Israeli navy boats opened fire at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, setting fire to a boat and causing it to sink.
- Occupying forces detained seven Palestinians from across Hebron, Bethlehem and Nablus.
- Occupying forces shot a Palestinian child, Hatem Abu Mayala (age 13), in the back of the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet as he walked to school in the Silwan neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem, causing severe bleeding and a deep wound. Once wounded, Hatem was also attacked and beaten up by the Israeli soldiers.

3 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 11 Palestinians, among them children, in predawn detention raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces raided the town of Huwwara in Nablus, forcing shopkeepers on the town's main street to close down.

- Israeli naval boats shot machine gunfire towards Palestinian fishermen, who were sailing offshore of the central Gaza Strip.
- Israeli settlers razed private Palestinian land in the village of Jallud, south of Nablus.

4 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces demolished five Palestinian-owned homes and a store in Al-Khalil, Nablus and East Jerusalem under the pretext of "construction without a permit".
- Israeli occupying forces punitively demolished the family homes of three Palestinians killed by occupying forces about two months ago.
- Israeli settlers from the illegal "Eli" settlement built on the land of Al-Libban Al-Sharqiah, south of Nablus, threw stones at Palestinians' vehicles, including those carrying families with children, travelling on the Ramallah-Nablus main road, breaking the windshield of one vehicle.
- At least 12 Palestinians, including a university instructor, were detained by occupying forces during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- A Palestinian boy, Yazan Khalid Naaji (age 12), was seriously injured after an Israeli soldier shot a rubber-coated steel bullet at his head, in Al-Issawiya neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem.

5 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 25 Palestinians, including three children, and summoned at least three others for interrogation during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces notified three Palestinians of their intent to seize their private-owned solar panels in the village of Al-Markez, in Al-Khalil's Masafer Yatta area.
- Occupation military bulldozers infiltrated Gaza borders and razed agricultural lands to the east of Rafah in southern Gaza Strip.
- Occupying forces demolished the main slaughterhouse in Beit Sahour, east of Bethlehem.

6 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces raided and ransacked the contents of a printing house in the village of Doha, west of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished six homes and animal barns in Khirbet Um Al-Khayr, a small Bedouin village in the south of Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces notified the family of Mos'ab Ghnemat, a Palestinian detainee in Israeli jails, about their intent to demolish their home in yet another act of collective punishment.
- Occupying forces forced a Palestinian family to demolish two rooms in their home in Beit Hanina, north of Occupied East Jerusalem, under the pretext of "unlicensed construction".

7 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces demolished a number of Palestinian-owned residential structures in the village of Khirbet Tana, southeast of Nablus.
- A Palestinian was shot and injured by occupying forces near Joseph's Tomb, east of Nablus.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished a poultry house and automobile workshop in the village of Ni'lin, northwest of Ramallah, as well as a house and water well in the town of Samou, south of Al-Khalil.

As evidenced by the mounting list of human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law, Israel, the occupying Power, remains in complete disrespect of the law, causing endless destruction, suffering and anguish for our people. We repeat today our appeal to the international community to provide protection for the Palestinian people, as a matter of urgency and in accordance with international law. We also call for urgent action to compel Israel to halt its illegal colonization campaign in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Settlement construction must stop and home demolitions and land confiscations must end. This is imperative to stem the deterioration and reverse the dangerous reality on the ground. The international community must unequivocally demand an end to all of these Israeli violations and the Security Council, in particular, cannot be absolved of its responsibilities in this regard.

The time is long overdue to stop Israel from acting as a State above the law and in total contempt of the international community and clearly the time has come to finally end this illegal foreign occupation in all its manifestations. The Palestinian people cannot be expected to wait and wait while their lives continue to be destroyed, generation upon generation, by a merciless occupier while the world sits idly by, watching.

This letter is in follow-up to our 581 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 March 2016 (A/ES-10/717-S/2016/295), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 15 April 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

As the Security Council is set to hold yet another open debate next week to discuss the "Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestine question", one characteristic remains the same: Israel, the occupying Power, continues to flagrantly flout international law and violate the inalienable and most basic human rights of the Palestinian people under its occupation throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, with total impunity. In particular, one feature of the occupation that has gone unchanged over the nearly five decades of occupation is that the occupying Power has continued to illegally confiscate and colonize Palestinian land in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Despite the widespread condemnations and calls by the international community to reverse and halt its building of settlements on the territory it illegally occupies, the occupying Power, before the eyes of the world, continues to carry on and openly persist with this war crime. This has been the case both during the time of the so-called peace process, in which the Palestinian people witnessed Israel's extremist settler population nearly triple, and in times of conflict and unrest. The recent period has been no different. In fact, according to the Israeli organization Peace Now, the building of illegal Israeli settlements was up by 250 per cent in the first quarter of 2016 compared to the same period last year.

Moreover, Peace Now stated that from January to March this year, the Israeli Government pushed forward plans for building 674 settlement units in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This is compared to 194 settlement units in the first quarter of 2015. The latest announcement of illegal settlement building came just this past Wednesday, 13 April 2016, when the occupying Power revealed that it has decided to move forward with the construction of at least 250 new illegal settlement units in various areas throughout Occupied Palestine, including in East Jerusalem. Clearly, this illegal and destructive campaign

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continues to cast serious doubts on the prospects for the two-State solution as Israel, the occupying Power, appears to be doing all it can to destroy the goal of two States living side by side in peace and security through continued settlement construction, despite the firm Palestinian and global commitment to this solution.

The time is overdue for the international community to put an immediate end to Israel's colonial enterprise in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Actions must be taken to uphold the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice to bring the occupying Power into compliance with its legal obligations. In particular, while recalling the many Security Council resolutions directly addressing this crime, including resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980) and 478 (1980), we call on the Security Council to act in unison in calling on the occupying Power to halt its settlement enterprise, since it is clearly acknowledged that settlements pose the biggest challenge to a peaceful settlement.

Moreover, it is not only Israel's illegal settlement enterprise that continues to violate international law and the human rights of the Palestinian people. The occupying Power also persists with all of its other policies and measures against the defenceless Palestinian population, which include, among many other things, the killing and injuring of innocent Palestinian civilians, among them women and children. In this regard, since October 2015, Israeli occupying forces have killed over 200 Palestinian civilians, including scores of children, and have injured more than 15,000 Palestinians. Moreover, the occupying Power continues to employ measures of collective punishment against the entire Palestinian population living under its ruthless military occupation. This includes the illegal and immoral blockade of the Gaza Strip, in which almost 2 million civilians are suffering from a dire socioeconomic and humanitarian crisis deliberately caused by the occupying Power. Moreover, in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, measures of collective punishment, such as home demolitions, curfews, checkpoints and closures, not only continue but are also on the rise.

While it is impossible to record every single crime perpetrated daily by the Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers against the Palestinian people, in addition to the above, the list below is a compilation of many crimes in the recent period:

9 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained four Palestinians and summoned four others from across the West Bank.
- Israeli naval boats shot heavy machine gunfire on Palestinian fishermen sailing offshore of the northern Gaza Strip.
- Israeli occupying forces shot machine gunfire at Palestinian shepherds in Gaza.

10 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 10 Palestinians, including a journalist, during raids across the West Bank.

11 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 19 Palestinians, including two minors, and summoned two others from across the West Bank.
- Extremist Israeli settlers resumed their provocative tours to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem, amid calls by extremist Jewish organizations for mass visits to the holy site.

12 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces demolished three homes in the village of Al-Waljeh, to the north-west of Bethlehem, under the dubious pretext of "construction without a permit".
- Israeli occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians, including two minors, from the West Bank and Gaza.
- Israeli occupying forces destroyed a playground, which was used as a children's park, in Za'tara, a small village to the south of Nablus.
- Israeli occupying forces reclosed with cement cubes the entrance to the village of Aqraba, to the south of Nablus.

13 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 13 Palestinians during pre-dawn raids in Nablus, Al-Khalil, Tulkarm, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
- Israeli settlers stormed the village of Kherbet Tana, south-east of Nablus, harassing Palestinian civilians. About 20 Palestinian students suffocated as Israeli occupying forces fired tear gas canisters at a girls' school in Jaba' town, south of Jenin.

14 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces destroyed a Palestinian-owned charcoal facility in the village of Barta'a, to the south-west of Jenin.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 30 Palestinians, including a girl, 2 boys and 11 elderly persons, during extensive pre-dawn raid campaigns across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces raided and burned down a Palestinian-owned currency exchange shop in central Al-Bireh.
- Israeli occupying forces raided the campuses of two Palestinian primary schools in the town of Al-Khader, to the south of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished a rainwater harvesting well near Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Ibrahim Mohammed Baraz'iyeh (age 45) near Al-Arroub refugee camp in Al-Khalil.

The continuation of such illegal policies and measures are clearly exacerbating the volatile situation on the ground and heightening tensions between the two sides. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held to the same standards as all other States and comply with international law, and cannot continue to be absolved of its legal obligations. In this regard, we reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable in accordance with international law and the principles of justice for all of its violations and for its continuing obstruction of peace. Moreover, we also reiterate our appeal for protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with international humanitarian law. This is imperative to save lives and to salvage the minimal prospects for peace before us, and the international community, particularly the Security Council, has clear responsibilities in this regard that must be upheld in all seriousness and without delay.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 583 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 April 2016 (A/ES-10/719-S/2016/332), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 28 April 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Once again, we write to you to address the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of the grave breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, whom it continues to hold hostage to its nearly five-decade military occupation. We continue to call on the international community, especially the Security Council, to uphold its obligations to respect and ensure respect for international law in order to immediately halt all Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and their land and to take the measures necessary to prevent the situation from deteriorating even further.

It is beyond tragic that our repeated calls for action, including by the Security Council, to stop Israel's violations against the unprotected Palestinian people have fallen on deaf ears. Such silence and inaction have only allowed Israel, the occupying Power, to continue and even to intensify its devastating policies and practices against the Palestinian civilian population. A clear example of this took place just yesterday, Wednesday, 27 April 2016, when the occupying Power extrajudicially executed two more innocent Palestinians civilians.

According to many witnesses at the murder scene, Maram Saleh Hassan Abu Ismail, age 23, who was also five months pregnant, and her brother Ibrahim, age 16, were en route to Jerusalem to go to a medical appointment when they walked down a road that apparently was to be used only by vehicles, not pedestrians, at the Qalandiya military checkpoint near Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. Israeli soldiers were yelling at them in Hebrew, a language that Maram and Ibrahim did not understand. Maram and Ibrahim's initial reaction was to stop walking. As Ibrahim went to grab his pregnant sister's hand to guide her to move in a different direction, Israeli occupying forces opened fire and shot her. Maram fell to the ground with her child in utero, and when her brother Ibrahim came to her aid, he too was shot and

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killed by Israeli forces. Tragically, Maram and Ibrahim were not only shot once, but rather, their bodies were riddled with more than 20 bullets, execution-style, which now appears to have become the preferred Israeli method of killing Palestinians.

A Palestinian bus driver present at the scene told journalists that the Israeli soldier who opened fire on Maram and Ibrahim was standing behind a cement block nearly 40 metres away from them at the time. As has been the case in multiple incidents, Israeli occupying forces falsely claimed that Maram "threw a knife in their direction". But eyewitnesses told journalists that Maram and Ibrahim did not appear to pose any threat to the occupying forces when they were shot at and murdered in broad daylight. This was corroborated by many other witnesses, with one stating that he saw soldiers even plant knives at the scene.

Again, the State of Palestine, whose people and land are under occupation, must pose a serious question to the international community: How many times will we hear the same fabrications by the occupying Power that all of the Palestinian civilians, including children, who are killed by the occupying Power are killed as a result of so-called "stabbing attempts"? These false allegations are being made by the same Israeli occupying forces that are armed to the teeth with the most lethal, sophisticated weapons, hiding behind armoured tanks and given the green light by occupying commanders to shoot to kill as they please without fear of punishment.

Does the international community really believe the false narrative by the occupying Power that Maram, a mother of a 6-year-old and a 4-year-old and also five months pregnant, "threw a knife" at an Israeli occupying force knowing that she would be killed on the spot given their total disregard for Palestinian life? And even if one were to believe the distorted narrative that she "threw a knife", the question then becomes, how is it that an Israeli soldier standing nearly 40 metres away does not think twice about shooting civilians over 20 times? Undoubtedly, the Israeli version of the story cannot be believed and the international community must question each and every detail of the distorted version of this incident and the many others like it. It can no longer be tolerated for Israeli forces to not only kill and get away with murder, but then to maliciously blame the murdered Palestinian victims for being killed when their crime was simply trying to go about their day under occupation and navigate through the unjust, cruel system imposed upon them and designed to infringe on every aspect of their lives and every single one of their inalienable human rights.

One needs only to recall the heinous story of the Israeli soldier, who is also a so-called medic, Elor Azaria, whose video recording shows him shooting his weapon at a wounded, unarmed Palestinian man who had been shot at an Israeli military checkpoint in Al-Khalil on 24 March 2016. The video, shot by Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, shows Abed al-Fatah al-Sharif lying on the ground, not receiving any medical attention, while Israeli forces and medics walk around him. Then Azaria calmly lifts his weapon, aims and shoots Abed in the head, killing him, execution-style. Even though he was arrested, he was released so that he could spend the Passover holiday with his family, in spite of the fact that the extrajudicial execution he had committed had been recorded and condemned by the entire world. Azaria was given a hero's welcome when he returned to his family and friends, which was preceded by a demonstration held in Tel Aviv with over 2,000 people rallying in support of him and his actions, in which they shouted slogans including "He is a hero." We call on the international community to condemn such

racist incitement and the glorification of the murder of Palestinians by Israelis and Israeli occupying authorities alike.

The fact of the matter is that the killings of Maram and Ibrahim and Abed al-Fatah are not isolated incidents. This has happened time and again, and with further inaction by the international community it will, sadly, continue. We therefore reiterate our call for international protection for the Palestinian people. International humanitarian law and the commitments undertaken for the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict must be upheld as a matter of urgency in the State of Palestine, where civilian lives are under constant threat by the occupying Power, which has not only grossly abrogated its obligations, but also clearly relinquished them. Moreover, it is high time for justice to finally be served by holding fully responsible those who kill and commit crimes against Palestinian civilians. In this regard, the Palestinian leadership has officially called for an international investigation into the extrajudicial execution of Maram and Ibrahim. We also call for Israel to release video footage of the tragic incident at its military checkpoint.

While Israeli occupying forces continue their shoot-to-kill sprees, the Israeli Government continues to kill all prospects for peace and the possibility of a two-State solution with the continuation of its illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, on Saturday, 23 April 2016, occupying authorities delivered so-called notices to the Palestinian village of Jaloud in the northern occupied West Bank, informing Palestinian residents that 5,000 dunums (1,250 acres) of private land was slated for confiscation. It should be recalled that last year, Israel's so-called High Court of Justice ruled to "retroactively" sanctify the illegal Israeli outposts that clearly had been established in violation of international law. The so-called notice delivered to the Nablus-area village was signed by the Israeli army's head of Central Command, who cited bogus security claims and stated that "certain steps are needed to prevent terror attacks" and that because of this he had given orders to confiscate the land "for security reasons". The land will be declared "State land" and will fall under full control of the Israeli military.

As with other Israeli confiscation orders, the obvious aim of the confiscation order in Jaloud is to facilitate illegal settlement expansion and to ultimately connect so-called outposts with the adjacent "Shilo" settlement via Alon Road, a bypass highway segregated only for Israeli settler and military use. It should be noted that some 12 illegal settlements and 27 illegal settlement outposts are located in the Nablus district, housing around 23,000 Israeli settlers, most of them extremist settlers who continue to attack Palestinian civilians and cause damage to homes and property with complete impunity.

In this connection, we must also reiterate that we cannot separate Israeli settler violence from Israel's illegal settlement network across the Occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international humanitarian law and international criminal law as articulated in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In this regard, settler violence also continues to intensify. This includes an incident that took place on Friday, 22 April 2016, when Israeli terrorist settlers attacked a Palestinian bus carrying Palestinian children near the illegal settlement of "Emmanuel" east of Qalqiliya, in the northern occupied West Bank. Terrorist settlers threw rocks at the moving bus, shattering its windows and causing panic to spread among the children who were riding the bus. We reiterate that Israel,

the occupying Power, is responsible for all of the crimes committed by the settlers it has illegally transferred to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and as such all settlers who commit crimes against Palestinian civilians must be held accountable.

The Israeli occupying forces also continue to routinely commit acts of aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which remains illegally and immorally blockaded by Israel. Among the most recent military attacks include the shooting this past Tuesday, 26 April, at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the besieged Gaza Strip. Also on Tuesday, Israeli occupying forces carried out another military incursion into the Gaza Strip and levelled Palestinian land near Al-Shujaiyya, in the eastern part of Gaza. Israeli occupying forces enter Palestinian areas on both the land and sea sides of the Gaza Strip on a near-daily basis, placing Palestinian fishermen and farmers, as well as their livelihoods, at risk. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Israeli occupying forces made 40 incursions into the Gaza border area in the month of April alone.

Before concluding, I must draw attention to some of the other most recent crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period since our most recent letter to you:

16 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces notified a Palestinian family of plans to demolish the family's home in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Al-Bustan.
- Israeli settlers forcibly prevented a Palestinian farmer, Ibrahim Salah, from accessing his farmland near the town of Al-Khader, south of Bethlehem.

17 April 2016

- Occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians, including 4 children, from across the West Bank and Jerusalem.
- A group of Israeli settlers and occupying forces carried out provocative tours into the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, in Jerusalem.

18 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained four Palestinians and summoned two others for interrogation during predawn raids across Al-Khalil and Bethlehem.
- Dozens of children suffocated after inhaling tear gas shot at them by Israeli occupying forces in Al-Khalil and in Jerusalem.

19 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 24 Palestinians, including 3 girls, and summoned 3 others for interrogation during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces detained four Palestinian fishermen and seized their boats off the coast of Rafah, in southern Gaza.

- A Palestinian youth was hit and injured in the eye by a stun grenade, which was fired at him by an Israeli occupying force in Jerusalem.

20 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces demolished the family house of Hussein Abu Ghush (age 17), who was killed by Israeli occupying forces on January 25 in yet another punitive demolition.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 42 Palestinians, including children, most of them during a predawn raid in Al-Issawiya, in East Jerusalem.

21 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces assaulted a Palestinian youth, Ahmad Bassam Mohammad (age 21), near the village of Azzoun A-Atma, to the south of Qalqiliya.
- Occupying forces detained seven Palestinians, including a 14-year-old child, from across the West Bank.

22 April 2016

- A Palestinian bus was attacked by Israeli settlers throwing stones on a road near the settlement of "Emmanuel", shattering the bus windows and causing panic among the children riding the bus.

23 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces delivered military notices to the Palestinian village of Jaloud, alerting residents that 5,000 dunums (1,250 acres) of private Palestinian land were slated for confiscation in order to pave a new road to serve illegal Israeli outposts and settlements.
- Occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian farmers in southern Gaza.
- Occupying forces arrested a journalist, Omar Nazzal, a member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, at the bridge between the West Bank and Jordan, while en route to Bosnia to participate in the General Meeting of the European Federation of Journalists.

24 April 2016

- Occupying naval forces detained two Palestinian fishermen and seized their boats off the coast of Gaza.
- Occupying forces detained at least six Palestinian civilians, most of them during predawn and night raids across the West Bank.

25 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians, and reports indicate that they also stole money and jewellery during those arrest raids in Al-Khalil and Jerusalem.

26 April 2016

- Israeli naval boats opened machine-gun fire on Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip as occupying forces entered Palestinian land near Al-Shujaiyya and levelled the area.
- Occupying forces cracked down on a non-violent rally organized by Palestinian journalists near Ofer Israeli prison, south-west of Ramallah, in solidarity with Palestinian journalist Omar Nazzal, who was recently detained. There were multiple cases of suffocation due to excessive tear gas inhalation, and Saed Huwwari from Reuters news agency was injured after being hit with a stun grenade in his chest.

27 April 2016

- Israeli naval boats attacked Palestinian fishermen sailing within six miles of the shore of Gaza.
- Occupying forces shot and murdered two Palestinians, a young woman, Maram Saleh Hassan Abu Ismail (age 24), and her brother Ibrahim (age 16) at the illegal Qalandiya checkpoint near Ramallah.
- Occupying forces detained four Palestinians, including a disabled person.
- The occupying Power's bulldozers and armoured tanks crossed through the border fence with the Gaza Strip and levelled land east of the Al-Bureij refugee camp.

28 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces arrested 10 Palestinians from Ramallah, Al-Khlail, Jenin and Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces opened gunfire on Palestinian farmers who were trying to access their land to the east of Khan Younis, in southern Gaza.
- Occupying forces shot and injured a Palestinian teen, Ahmad Masoud (age 17), when several Israeli settlers broke into the area of Joseph's Tomb, to the east of Nablus.

In the light of all of the above, we call again on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act immediately to end Israel's impunity and resolve this conflict, which clearly constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Israeli occupation must end, and the Palestinian people must realize justice and their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom. The Palestinian leadership will continue to use all legitimate, peaceful, legal and non-violent means to achieve these goals. This includes our support for all international efforts, including the French initiative, which Israel rejected today. We must clearly state that the Israeli Government's continued disingenuous call for "bilateral negotiations" is not a call for the achievement of the two-State solution, but an attempt at legitimizing its occupation and its settlement enterprise, and it must be called out for what it is. Contributing to the de-escalation of tensions and to respect for international law should be viewed as an absolute necessity and the collective responsibility of all to ensure, not as a contradiction in any way with the aim of peace and security.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 584 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 15 April 2016 (A/ES-10/720-S/2016/349), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 16 May 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, 15 May 2016, marked the passage of 68 years since *Al-Nakba*, the tragedy in 1948 in which more than 800,000 Palestinians, 70 per cent of our people, were forcibly uprooted and expelled from their homes and lands or fled in fear for their lives after brutal massacres were carried out in over 400 Palestinian towns and villages by Zionist terrorist groups in Mandate Palestine in a clear act of ethnic cleansing. On this solemn occasion, the Palestinian people reflect on their past and their present with sadness and sorrow as they continue to suffer and struggle for the realization of their inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination.

Today, *Al-Nakba* of the Palestinian people continues as millions of Palestinians continue to either live in exile as refugees, denied the inalienable right to return to their homes, or continue to live under Israel's nearly 50-year-old belligerent military occupation of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, where they are forced to endure the constant violation of their fundamental human rights. Indeed, with the passage of each year since *Al-Nakba* and since the occupation of the rest of historic Palestine, not a day has gone by in which the Palestinian people have not endured more loss, human and material, as well as untold suffering and hardship.

On this solemn occasion, we must also reaffirm the right of the Palestine refugees to return, a collective and individual right in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 (III). We reiterate that this right does not diminish with the passage of time and that respect of it is central to the attainment of a just, lasting solution to the conflict. On this occasion, we also take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and its dedicated staff for their tireless efforts to fulfil the

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Agency's mandate through the provision of education, health care, relief, emergency assistance and protection to the Palestine refugees, as well as by providing a measure of stability and some sense of hope for millions of Palestine refugees through constant crises and turmoil in the region.

It is beyond regrettable that, despite the repeated appeals and calls of the international community, including in the context of United Nations resolutions, Israel not only continues apace but has intensified and broadened the scope and scale of its violations against the Palestinian people by committing grave breaches, including war crimes, systematic human rights violations and acts of State terror, against them. Clearly, the root of all such illegal Israeli policies and practices against the Palestinian people and the continuation of its belligerent occupation has been Israel's colonial settlement enterprise. Rather than working towards ending its illegal occupation, Israel continues to carry out and impose countless illegal measures to further entrench its occupation and destroy the contiguity and viability of the Palestinian land and the prospects for realizing the two-State solution.

This can only be evidenced by Israel's latest and most recent round of aggression against the Palestinian people, in which excessive and indiscriminate force has continued to be routinely employed, causing wilful death and injury in grave violation of international humanitarian law. Since October 2015, the occupying Power has killed more than two hundred and injured and maimed thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and elderly persons. Moreover, the occupying Power has rendered hundreds of Palestinians homeless as it continues with its illegal policy of punitive home demolitions. In addition, the confiscation of Palestinian land for Israel's never-ending plans to expand and build more and more illegal settlements continues, resulting in the displacement of thousands of Palestinians, including Bedouins. In this regard, just today, Israeli occupying forces demolished over 12 European Union-funded caravans housing Palestinian Bedouins in the neighbourhood of Jabal Al-Baba to the east of Occupied East Jerusalem. This latest illegal Israeli measure displaced over 90 Palestinians, most of them children. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to detain, arrest, imprison and torture thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children. The unrelenting violence, terror and provocations by extremist Israeli settlers with total impunity continue unabated, as does the continued imposition of a crippling, dehumanizing and illegal blockade of more than 1.8 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who continue to be killed and injured and live in a constant state of fear from Israeli attacks from air, sea and land.

In this regard, I must draw attention to some of the other most recent crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the period since our last letter to you.

29 April 2016

- Israeli occupying forces raided Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, the third holiest site in Islam, and detained dozens of Palestinian worshipers.

1 May 2016

- At least one Palestinian was shot and injured and three others detained by Israeli occupying forces during a military raid into Al-Izza refugee camp, north of Bethlehem.

- Israeli naval boats opened machine-gun fire on Palestinian fishermen sailing within six miles of the shore of Gaza.
- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinian minors, Majd Dari (age 15), Fadi Issawi (age 14) and Shadi Odeh (age 17), after raiding their family homes in the town of Al-Issawiya, on the outskirts of East Jerusalem.

2 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least eight Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and stole two vehicles belonging to Palestinian locals in Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces notified Palestinians in the town of Al-Issawiya, on the outskirts of East Jerusalem, about their intention to demolish their residential and commercial structures.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished an agricultural structure in the city of Qalqilia.
- Israel, the occupying Power, issued and renewed administrative detention orders against 25 Palestinians in Israeli jails, including journalist Omar Nazzal, member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate and President of the Democratic Journalists Union, who was arrested on the Allenby Bridge on 23 April 2016.

3 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces punitively demolished the house of a Palestinian prisoner, Zaid Amer, located on the fourth floor of a building in Khallet Al-Eman neighbourhood in Nablus.
- Israeli occupying forces detained six Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 18 Palestinians, including at least 2 minors and a disabled man, during raids in the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces forced a local Palestinian family from Silwan, a neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, to demolish three commercial stores of its own under the pretext of construction without an Israeli permit.
- Israeli occupying forces opened fire and killed Ahmad Riyad Shehadeh (age 36) near the illegal Israeli settlement of "Dolev", north-west of Ramallah.

4 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained 19 Palestinians during predawn raids across the West Bank, including Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces notified Palestinians in the village of Al-Walajeh, to the west of Bethlehem, of their intention to demolish eight homes and to stop the construction of a ninth under the pretext of construction without Israeli permits.
- An Israeli settler attacked Palestinian schoolboys en route to their school at Tal Rumeida neighbourhood in Al-Khalil's Old City.

- Israeli armoured tanks fired three artillery shells at adjacent agricultural lands and a landfill to the east of Rafah in Gaza.

5 May 2016

- Israeli warplanes targeted several locations in the besieged Gaza Strip and left one elderly Palestinian, Hasan Hasanin (age 65), and three children moderately to critically injured.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 13 Palestinians, including at least 3 minors, in the West Bank, and 1 at a Gaza border crossing.
- Israeli occupying forces prevented a Palestinian scout group from parading to celebrate the Islamic festival of Isra and Miraj in East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces stormed Al-Jawaya locality, east of Yatta, in Al-Khalil, and handed Ayed Al-Shawahin (age 35) a military order to stop the construction of his house. During the raid, occupying forces tore down Al-Shawahin's family's residential tents and seized construction equipment.

6 May 2016

- Three Palestinians, including two journalists, were injured as Israeli occupying forces dispersed the weekly protest in Kafr Qaddum in Qalqiliya. In the village of Bilin, dozens suffered from tear gas inhalation as Israeli occupying forces dispersed the weekly protest there, causing a fire to erupt on land belonging to Awad Yasin in the Khallat Al-Ful area. A Palestinian was also shot and injured by Israeli occupying forces near Al-Mintar (Karni) crossing in the eastern Gaza Strip.

7 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces opened fire on a group of Palestinian shepherds on the eastern outskirts of Gaza City.

8 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least seven Palestinians, mostly during predawn raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces shot and injured a Palestinian youth, Khalil Ta'mari, in Wadi Al-Hummus area, south-east of East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces razed a Palestinian-owned 50-dunum land and uprooted 50 olive trees in the village of Kafr Qaddum, east of Qalqilia.
- A group of extremist Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian human rights activists in the Tal Rumeida area in Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian farmers in the southern Gaza Strip.

9 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces announced their illegal plan to seize 419 dunums of Palestinian land in the Jerusalem towns of Lifta and Beit Iksa to expand the illegal "Ramot" settlement.
- Israeli settlers raided and took over a Palestinian-owned home in East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians, including 2 minors, during raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces have expropriated a Palestinian-owned piece of land in East Jerusalem from its original owners and handed it over to an organization called "Amana" that works to establish illegal settlements and outposts.
- Israeli occupying forces opened fire at Palestinian farmers tending to their fields on the outskirts of the village of Khuzaa, to the east of Khan Yunis in Gaza.

10 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces ordered Palestinians to stop the construction of five privately owned homes and a water pipeline project in the village of Al-Aqaba to the east of Tubas.
- A number of Palestinian students and staff from Al-Khalil's Health Work Committees' Emergency Centre were suffocated by tear gas fired by Israeli occupying forces directly towards students and inside the Centre.
- Israeli occupying forces demolished a Palestinian home under construction in the village of Al-Walaja to the west of Bethlehem under the pretext of lacking an Israeli permit.
- Israeli occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians, including 4 minors, from across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces handed a number of Palestinian locals in the village of Susiya, to the south of Al-Khalil, notices to demolish their residential structures.
- Israeli settlers stole three sheep belonging to a Palestinian shepherd near the village of Aqraba, south of Nablus.

11 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces seized closed-circuit television camera recordings during a raid into Al-Khader town, south of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces shot and injured two young Palestinian men, one of them seriously, in the village of Kafr Aqab, north of occupied East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces issued and renewed administrative detention orders against 13 Palestinian detainees.

12 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces handed a notice to the family of three Palestinian prisoners informing them that their home would be punitively demolished, under the pretext of construction without an Israeli permit.
- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians, including a teen, during overnight raids into the West Bank.

14 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians from Al-Khalil and Jerusalem.
- Violent Israeli settlers stormed the family house of Riyad Abu Hazza', in Tal Rumeida neighbourhood in Al-Khalil, where they beat Abu Hazza's wife, causing several bruises and cuts across her body, then one of the terrorist settlers pepper-sprayed her daughter in the face, causing her to faint.

15 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained four Palestinians from Bethlehem and Al-Khalil, in addition to an elderly person from Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces continued their blockade of the town of Hazma, in East Jerusalem, for the fifth consecutive day.
- Two Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails have been on an open-ended hunger strike for 43 days in protest of being held in jail without charge or trial.

16 May 2016

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 11 Palestinian civilians across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces dismantled 12 Palestinian-owned caravans in Jabal Al-Baba neighbourhood, near the town of Al-Ezariya to the east of Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces opened heavy machine-gun fire towards Palestinian farmers who were attempting to reach their agricultural land to the east of Gaza City.
- A Palestinian worker was moderately injured when Israeli occupying forces opened live fire at him near Bethlehem.

After nearly 50 years of occupation and nearly 70 years since *Al-Nakba*, we will not relent in our calls and efforts for the upholding of international law and the protection of our people towards the realization of justice, the fulfilment of their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace, which we have for so long sought and which is so urgently needed for both regional and international peace and security. In this context, the time to act, with responsibility and conscience, is long overdue to bring an end to Israel's almost five-decade-old occupation and to all of its crimes against the unprotected Palestinian civilian population and their land.

This letter is in follow-up to our 585 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 April 2016 (A/ES-10/721-S/2016/402), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

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Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the
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